

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, NI, (BALOGUN, A. OLA)

SUBJECT: FY 1975 INTERVISITOR BALOGUN

REFERENCE: LAGOS 2757

1. WHILE DEPARTMENT IS REASSURED BALOGUN NOT UPSET BY AFI POSITION, THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS. IIE AGREES APRIL 17 ETA, BUT THIS PRESUPPOSES BALOGUN UNDERTAKING NORMAL 30-DAY IV TOUR. LAGOS 2342 GIVES IMPRESSION THAT BALOGUN INTENDS SCHEDULE ONLY 10-DAY VISIT. THIS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT STRONGEST JUSTIFICATION. PARENTHETICALLY, BRIEFNESS THIS SCHEDULE WAS CAUSE OUR PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED CONCERN. PRELIMINARY NEW YORK VISIT PER SE IS MANAGEABLE.

2. IF BALOGUN UNDERTAKING NORMAL IV TOUR, DEPARTMENT SEES NO REASON PROVIDE 50 POUNDS EXCESS BAGGAGE FROM LAGOS TO AND AROUND U.S. ON OTHER HAND, IF BALOGUN UNDERTAKING FILM PROMOTION TOUR AND HAS LEGITIMATE NEED EXCESS BAGGAGE, WE FEEL IT NECESSARY HE POSTPONE DEPARTURE UNTIL ADEQUATE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

3. DEPTOFF AND IIE PROGRAM OFFICER HAVE NOTED REPEATED EMBASSY ALLUSIONS TO BALOGUN TRAVELING ON HIS OWN. NO UNCLASSIFIED

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ESCORT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BECAUSE OF THIS, PROGRAM OFFICER, HOWEVER, FEELS STRONGLY THAT OVERALL VISIT WOULD BE ENHANCED, IF PROPER TYPE ESCORT WERE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMPANY BALOGUN AT TIMES HE DID NOT OBJECT TO COMPANION. ONE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE WOULD BE THAT ESCORT WITH DRIVER'S LICENSE WOULD OFFER CONSIDERABLY INCREASED FLEXIBILITY TO SOMEONE SEEKING "GAIN MORE BALANCED VIEW OF U.S...TO SEE FOR HIMSELF WHAT MAKES AMERICA TICK."

4. DEPTOFF CONTACTING NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND AFI CONCERNING WILLINGNESS EMBASSY PROVIDE SUPPORT REQUESTED PARA 3
REFTEL. KISSINGER

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